

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SOFIA 01136 051432Z

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ACTION FSI-01

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FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9693

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: AFSI, BU
SUBJECT: POST LANGUAGE TRAINING PROGRAM FY-76

REF: A-3466 OF MAY 16, 1975

1. SINCE FSI IS IN PROCESS OF PLANNING ITS FY-76 BUDGET, IT MAY BE HELPFUL IF WE SET FORTH OUR PLANNED (OR HOPED-FOR) LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION PROGRAM FOR THAT PERIOD. EMPHASIS PLACED BY POST ON NEED FOR LDP OFFICERS TO AT LEAST MAINTAIN, IF NOT IMPROVE THE LANGUAGE LEVEL ACHIEVED WHILE AT FSI HAS EXPANDED THE SCHEDULE OVER PREVIOUS YEARS. EXPERIENCE HAS SHOWN THAT COMBINING CLASSES IN A SMALL POST TEACHING A HARD LANGUAGE, TOGETHER WITH PERSONNEL TURNOVER RATES, HAS THE EFFECT OF NEGATING MONEY SAVINGS. MONEY SPENT TO TEACH TWO PEOPLE AT DIFFERENT LANGUAGE LEVELS IN SOFIA IS THEREFORE NOT WELL SPENT.

2. ACCORDINGLY, FY-76 BUDGET PLANS ARE FOR A TEACHING SCHEDULE OF 17 HOURS (COMBINED CLASSES WILL BE SCHEDULED WHEN FEASIBLE) REQUIRING \$1870 FOR FOUR QUARTER YEAR AND \$468 FOR THE THREE MONTH TRANSITION PERIOD (AUGUST 1, 1976 - SEPTEMBER 30, 1976) FOR A TOTAL OF \$2338.

3. NO INCREASE IS INCLUDED IN THIS BUDGET FOR COST OF INSTRUCTION, WHICH IS PRESENTLY THE EQUIVALENT OF \$2.50 PER HOUR. IT IS POSSIBLE HOWEVER THAT COST PER HOUR MAY INCREASE SINCE WE ARE CURRENTLY PAYING LESS THAN THE GOING RATE.

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PAGE 02 SOFIA 01136 051432Z

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